

The publication date of the book *Key to Chinese Amphibia* by Fei, Ye & Huang

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The book *Key to Chinese Amphibia*, by Fei Liang, Ye Changyuan and Huang Yongzhao, has sometimes be quoted as having been published in 1991. As shown by an official certificate here reproduced, this is wrong, as it was published in China in December 1990.

The book *Key to Chinese Amphibia*, by FEI Liang, YE Changyuan and HUANG Yongzhao was a landmark in the history of Chinese batrachology. It was the first comprehensive list of the amphibians of China published after the *Systematic key to the Amphibians of China* published in 1977 by the Sichuan Institute of Biology (ANONYMOUS, 1977). It provided keys, diagnoses and figures for the adults, larvae and eggs of 279 species, arranged in 58 genera and subgenera and in 11 families and subfamilies, and it gave the distribution of these species in the provinces of China. It contained the creation of 15 new nominal taxa: 6 species (*Leptolalax alpinus*, *Leptolalax luu*, *Leptolalax ventripunctatus*, *Megophrys glandulosa*, *Megophrys mangshanensis*, *Oreolalax granulosis*), 5 genera (*Glandrana*, *Odorrana*, *Pseudorana*, *Rugosa*, *Tigrina*), 3 subgenera (*Quadrana*, *Tenurana*, *Uncuhana*) and 1 subfamily (Occidozyginae).

In the second, unnumbered, page of the book (p [ii]), the date of the book was given as 1.12 1990 (1st December 1990). The book was distributed first in China in December 1990, then mailed free to various colleagues in the world, but was apparently received there only several weeks after the beginning of the year 1991. Probably for this reason, ZHAO & ADLER (1993: 367) credited this book with the publication year 1991 instead of 1990. This information was repeated in several works, especially in FROST et al. (2006: 253, 266), who furthermore wrote that "this publication did not appear until at least March of 1991" (FROST et al., 2006: 253).

This latter information is wrong, as shown by the official certificate reproduced here in figure 1, and which can be translated as follows:

"Certificate

We formally here certify that the book *Key to Chinese Amphibia* by Fei Liang, Ye Changyuan and Huang Yongzhao was published in fact in December 1990 by the Chongqing branch of the Science and Technology Literature Publishing House.

证 明

《中国两栖动物检索》一书确系于 1990 年 12 月出版发行的，特此证明。

原“科学技术文献出版社重庆分社”

责任编辑

王-笛

重庆自然博物馆 研究员

黄永昭

2006 年 9 月 30 日

Fig. 1. – Official certificate attesting the publication date of the book *Key to Chinese Amphibia*, by FEI Liang, YE Changyuan and HUANG Yongzhao.

Wang Yifu, Editor responsible for the book *Key to Chinese Amphibia* in the Chongqing Branch of the Science and Technology Literature Publishing House.

Huang Yongzhao, Professor at the Chongqing Nature Museum.

30 September 2006.”

The book should therefore be quoted as FEI, YE & HUANG (1990), and the new taxa named therein are dated December 1990.

LITERATURE CITED

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